

Chris:

I was director of a GLBT all volunteer speakers organization called Stonewall Speakers for 6 years and a speaking member from 1993 to the present. We have spoken at over 100 public high schools in Ct. out of approximately 140, mostly to health and social studies classes. Two or three of us tell our personal stories followed by Q&A session in a 45 minute period. We have made a difference in the homophobic atmosphere of most H.S. and have saved GLBT student's lives from suicide and self destructive thoughts and actions.

There is big difference between school systems that have general policies against bullying and treating each other with respect, etc. and those which enumerate specific actions and types of discrimination. Students want and need (like most children) specific guidelines and rules as do the teachers who must enforce these.

I know this from personal experience as a gay man as well as a Stonewall speaker, a parent, a school textbook salesman in Ct. for 23 years visiting almost every H.S. and chairman of the Daniel Hand parent's committee in Madison for 4 years.

Sincerely yours,

David Knapp